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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 EB-03 INR-05

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O R 241845Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6167
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02152

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, FR
SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR CONSUMER-PRODUCER DIALOGUE

REF: BONN 01139; PARIS 01956

1. ECON/COM MIN CALLED ON BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, JANUARY 24 TO EXPRESS HIS SURPRISE AND CONCERN AT REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES HAD INFORMED THE GERMANS IN BONN ON JANUARY 22 THAT THE U.S. WAS NOW SATISFIED THAT THE PRE-CONDITIONS FOR HOLDING THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE OF THE PRODUCER-CONSUMER ENERGY CONFERENCE HAD BEEN FULFILLED. HE REMINDED BRUNET OF RECENT CONVERSATIONS EMBASSY OFFICIALS
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HAD HAD WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS IN WHICH WE HAD MADE CLEAR

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THAT, IN OUR VIEW, EXCEPT FOR FINANCIAL SOLIDARITY, THESE PRE-CONDITIONS HAD NOT YET BEEN FULFILLED.

2. BRUNET SAID HE WAS DEEPLY EMBARRASSED BY SAUVAGNARGUES' STATEMENTS. HE SAID THAT IF HE HAD BEEN IN BONN WITH SAUVAGNARGUES INSTEAD OF IN BRUSSELS, HE COULD HAVE PREVENTED THIS. EVEN SO, HE ADDED, SAUVAGNARGUES SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER BECAUSE HE HAD CAREFULLY EXPLAINED THE U.S. POSITION TO HIM AT THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING ON JANUARY 20.

3. BRUNET SHOWED ECON/COM MIN TEXT OF A MEMORANDUM HE WAS SENDING TO SAUVAGNARGUES, INFORMING HIM THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY WAS DISTURBED AT THE ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION HE HAD CONVEYED TO THE FRG AND REMINDING HIM THAT IN ALL THE CONVERSATIONS WHICH EMBASSY AND OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS HAD HAD WITH THE FRENCH, IT HAD BEEN MADE PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THE PRE-CONDITIONS FOR THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE HAD NOT YET BEEN FULFILLED.

4. BRUNET THEN EXPLICITLY ASSURED ECON/COM MIN THAT THE GOF HAD NOT YET BEGUN SENDING OUT INVITATIONS TO THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND WOULD NATURALLY NOT TO DO OR TAKE ANY OTHER STEPS TOWARD THE ORGANIZATION OF A PREPARATORY MEETING "WITHOUT A GREEN LIGHT FROM THE U.S." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT, IN VIEW OF THE PROGRESS THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF FINANCIAL SOLIDARITY AND CONSERVATION OF ENERGY, AND ASSUMING THAT THE FEBRUARY 13 MEETING OF THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON ENERGY PRODUCED THE RESULTS HE WAS EXPECTING, HE HOPED THAT WE WOULD AGREE THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO BEGIN SENDING OUT INVITATIONS TO THE PREPARATORY MEETING IN THE LATTER HALF OF FEBRUARY. ECON/COM MIN SAID HE HAD NO IDEA WHEN USG WOULD CONCLUDE THE PRE-CONDITIONS HAD BEEN FULFILLED AND CAUTIONED BRUNET AGAINST EXCESSIVE OPTIMISM ON THIS SCORE. HE NOTED THAT THE SUBJECT OF CONSERVATION OF ENERGY AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SOURCES WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT IEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING IN EARLY FEBRUARY BUT THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT THIS MEETING WOULD BE INCONCLUSIVE
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AND THAT ANOTHER ONE WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD TOWARD THE END OF FEBRUARY. BRUNET SAID DAVIGNON HAD MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF THIS TO HIM AND THAT IT DID NOT PARTICULARLY TROUBLE HIM (I.E., THAT IT WOULDN'T BE FATAL IF THE INVITATIONS DIDN'T GO OUT IN THE LATTER HALF OF FEBRUARY). HOWEVER, HE ASSUMED THAT WE WOULD NOT PLACE UNREASONABLE OBSTACLES IN THE PATH OF THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE.

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